

Application No. 10/029,534
Filed: December 21, 2001
TC Art Unit: 1732
Confirmation No.: 5871

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to certain elements of the application. The term "comprising" is objected to as used in the Abstract. That term is a normal term of English and cannot be objectionable. The Abstract has been revised in paragraph form and in light of the new claims. A new Title is requested and supplied along with correction to page 7, line 6.

The request for a specific formatting for the claims is traversed as not required by law or regulation.

A corrected set of Figs. 1-6 labeled prior art is enclosed for approval.

The election of claims 1-16 is confirmed, claims 1-16 are cancelled and replaced with claims 24-37. Claims 17-23 are also cancelled without prejudice.

In claim 24, it is specified that the expandable pegs are mounted loosely on a support plate to allow a limited angular and lateral relative movement of the pegs relative to the support plate. Support can be found in page 6, lines 26-32 of the application as filed. Thus, the pegs can adapt themselves to the locations of the cells formed in the resin-impregnated fiber

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fabric when they are caused to penetrate the cells, simultaneously.

Greszczuk discloses the formation of holes in composite material. Holes are cut or drilled in the material after partial curing of the resin and a metallic pin or bolt having a diameter corresponding to one of the hole is inserted therein before the resin is completely cured.

There is no disclosure in Greszczuk of the formation of a honeycomb structure of cells as recited in claim 24. There is also no disclosure in Greszczuk of the mounting of pegs on a common support plate for simultaneous insertion in to the cells. There is also no disclosure in Greszczuk of the mounting of the pegs loosely in a manner to allow limited angular and lateral movement.

Buhler et al. shows indeed expandable tubes or rods. However, the process disclosed by Buhler et al. is completely different from the one of the invention. The expandable tubes are placed in a mold before a particulate molding compound is introduced into the mold. The article is thus molded around the tubes which, after their removal, leave holes in the article.

There is no disclosure in Buhler et al. of the insertion of a plurality of pegs into cells formed in a resin-impregnated fabric.

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There is also no disclosure in Buhler et al. of a loose mounting of the pegs on a support plate, whereby Buhler et al. cannot cure the deficiency of Greszczuk.

Both Marchant and Castanie et al. also fail to disclose a plurality of pegs loosely mounted on a support plate and simultaneously driven into cells formed in a resin impregnated fabric. In Marchant and Castanie et al., an expandable core is draped with a resin impregnated fibrous structure which is cured in a mold.

It is therefore believed that claim 24 patentably distinguishes over Greszczuk in combination with any of Buhler et al., Marchant and Castanie et al.

In claim 35, it is specified that honeycomb cells are formed in the resin impregnated fiber fabric by making parallel cuts in staggered relationship and stretching the fabric, before causing the expandable pegs to simultaneously penetrate into the respective cells. This is not taught by the above-mentioned cited references.

In claim 37, it is specified that the fiber fabric is held between the support plate carrying the expandable pegs and a backing plate. Such a feature was originally the subject matter of claim 12 which the Examiner has indicated as allowable.

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The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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CLG/dkh/309127